(Rs. in Crore)

	No. of Accounts	Amount
(i) State Bank of India and Associate Banks	853	4214.39
(ii) Nationalised Banks	2548	11779.47
(iii) Private Sector Banks	332	1242.20
(iv) Foreign Banks	135	822.20
Total All Banks	3868	18058.26
FIs i.e. ICICI and IDBI	599	2522.25
Total Banks and FIs	4467	20580.51

(d) Banks and FIs take all possible steps to recover their dues from defaulters through various means such as close follow up, filing of suits etc. Also Government of India/Reserve Bank of India/Banks have taken several steps for recovery of bank dues which include framing and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with Civil Courts, filing cases with Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), strenghthening and setting up more DRTs and DRATs comprising settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non performing accounts.

Inclusion of Food processing industries in priority sector

†2706. DR. D. MASTHAN :

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industry has also been included in the priority sector for providing loans by the banks on the instructions of Govermnent;

(b) if so, when such instructions were issued;

(c) whether instructions for increasing the quantum of loans to priority sector have also been issued along with these instructions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The food and agro-based processing seaor has been included within the definition of priority sector for bank lending.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has issued circular in this regard on January 28, 1999.

(c) and (d) At present, a target of 40 per cent of net bank credit has been stipulated for domestic scheduled commercial bank's lending to the priority sector with the expansion in bank credit, the total lending to priority sector also increases. The scope of the priority sector has been expanded from time to time taking into account emerging priorities.

Compulsory Registration of Marriages

2707. SHRI DAWA LAMA

DR. Y LAKSHMl PRASAD :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make registration of marriages compulsory to safeguard the interest of women;

(b) if so, the details therof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) :(a)to(c) Registration of marriages solemnised or contracted under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Farsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is complusory. Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides that if the State Government is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may provide that the entering of the particulars of Hindu marriages in the Hindu marriage register shall be compulsory in the State or in any part thereof, whether in all cases or in such cases as may be specified. Certain State Govenunents, namely, the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have State Acts providing for compulsory registration of marriages in those States. Registration of marriages solemnised otherwise than under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is permissible under section 16 of the said Act if such marriages fulfil certain conditions as laid down under chapter III of that Act. The question of making the registration of Hindu marriages compulsory could thus be considered by the State Governments as per the local situations prevailing in those States.